

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 782

By Kyle

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Senator Douglas S. Henry on his meritorious service as a member of the General Assembly.

WHEREAS, the members of this body have the rare privilege to specially recognize and honor a beloved son of Tennessee whose lifetime of distinguished public service has improved the quality of life for every Tennessean and for those generations yet to come; and

WHEREAS, such a remarkable man is Senator Douglas S. Henry, whose years of diligence and compassion on behalf of the State of Tennessee and her good people shall serve as a towering example for public service in this great Nation; and

WHEREAS, the longest serving member of the Tennessee General Assembly in state history, Senator Douglas S. Henry began his legislative career in 1955, winning election to the House of Representatives for the 79th General Assembly, representing Davidson County; and

WHEREAS, in November 1970, Douglas Henry won election to the State Senate for the 87th General Assembly, representing Davidson County, and would win re-election to serve consecutive terms in the 88th through the 108th General Assemblies; and

WHEREAS, a true statesman, from 1977 to 2007 Senator Douglas Henry served with distinction as chairman of the Senate Finance, Ways and Means Committee, dedicating himself to getting and keeping the fiscal affairs of the State of Tennessee in order; and

WHEREAS, through the establishment of the Rainy Day Fund, the development of a solvent State Pension Plan, and the initiation of an efficient legislative budget process, Senator Henry's diligent efforts saw Tennessee receive a AAA bond-rating for the first time in state history; and

WHEREAS, Senator Henry worked with purpose and conviction on many efforts to improve the lives of his fellow Tennesseans, including legislation to establish family resource

centers, report child abuse, stop elder abuse, fight childhood obesity, compensate injured victims, provide Medicaid coverage for children and pregnant women, and require infant car seats – the first such bill in the nation; and

WHEREAS, the sponsor of the Greenbelt Act, Senator Douglas Henry has been a champion for the preservation of Tennessee's scenic beauty and worked with state officials to secure federal funding to acquire the Radnor Lake Park property and to provide state funding to purchase the land to build the Natchez Trace Parkway; and

WHEREAS, a true Renaissance man who reads and speaks French and modern Greek, Senator Henry won passage of legislation to establish the Tennessee Foreign Language Institute, initiate a statewide Veterans Treatment Court program, and codify the State Motto and the State Seal; and

WHEREAS, always guided by a Jeffersonian philosophy of the separation of state and federal powers during his illustrious tenure in the Senate, Senator Henry has rendered sterling service as Chairman Emeritus of the Finance, Ways and Means Committee and as a member of the Judiciary Committee, the Health and Welfare Committee, the Transportation and Safety Committee, the Council on Pensions and Insurance, the Rules Committee, the Fiscal Review Committee, and the Tennessee Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations; and

WHEREAS, Senator Henry served with distinction as the legislative member of the Committee to Build the World War II Monument on the Bicentennial Mall and secured a state appropriation of \$500,000 for its construction; and

WHEREAS, an active member of The Council of State Governments (CSG), Senator Douglas Henry served as Chairman of the Southern Legislative Conference from 1988-1989, and was most appropriately honored by CSG in 2007 with the creation of the Senator Douglas Henry Guardian of Federalism Award, which is given annually to the Congressional member who most actively defended federalism and the interests of the states in the past year; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure in the General Assembly, Senator Douglas Henry has striven to emulate the character of duty and honor possessed by the Tennessean he most admires, Sam Davis; his sole motive when casting his vote as a legislator is ensuring the best interests of the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, born on May 18, 1926, in Nashville, Douglas S. Henry is the son of Douglas Selph and Kathryn Craig Henry and attended Parmer Elementary School and Wallace University School in Nashville; and

WHEREAS, after his graduation from McCallie School in Chattanooga in 1943, Douglas Henry proudly answered his Nation's call to duty during World War II and served in the United States Army from 1944 to 1947; and

WHEREAS, assigned to a Field Artillery unit, Douglas Henry was awarded the Philippine Independence Medal and held the rank of 1st Lieutenant at the time of his discharge; and

WHEREAS, Douglas Henry obtained his Bachelor of Arts degree from Vanderbilt University in 1947 and earned his Bachelor of Laws degree from Vanderbilt University Law School in 1950; and

WHEREAS, engaged in private legal practice from 1950 to 1955, Senator Henry was employed by the National Life and Accident Insurance Company in Nashville as an attorney and assistant general counsel from 1957 to 1964 and as assistant vice president and assistant general counsel from 1964 to 1969 before returning to private practice in 1970; and

WHEREAS, a gentleman who truly appreciates the responsibilities, as well as the privileges, of citizenship, Senator Henry has generously donated his time and energies to many community, civic, professional, and governmental organizations; he is a member of the American Bar Association, Tennessee Bar Association, Nashville Bar Association, Association of Life Insurance Counsel, Nashville Downtown Kiwanis Club, Young Men's Christian Association, American Legion Post 5, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Sons of Confederate Veterans, and the Loyal Order of Moose; and

WHEREAS, a former member of the board of the Tennessee Technology Centers, Senator Henry is currently a member of the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Historical Society, the Tennessee State Museum, and the Young Men's Christian Association; and

WHEREAS, a member of the Tennessee Historical Society, Senator Henry is a charter member of the Bellevue-Harpeth Historical Society and has been a champion of funding for the Tennessee State Museum and its programs for years; and

WHEREAS, Douglas Henry expresses his devout Christian faith as a member of the Nashville Downtown Presbyterian Church, where he served as a ruling elder; and

WHEREAS, the patriarch of a large and loving family, he treasures the relationship he has with his beloved wife, Loiette Hampton Hume Henry, and is the proud father of six children, Kathryn Craig Henry Choisser, Loiette Hampton Henry Thompson, Robert Selph Henry II, Mary Leland Henry Wehner, Douglas Cornelius Hume Henry, and the late Emily Olympe Henry McMahon; and

WHEREAS, Senator Henry is the much-adored grandfather of Clata Craig McMahon Blount, Corinne Loiette McMahon Cook, Andrew DeForrest McMahon, Jr., Henry Forest Choisser, Sarah Kathryn Thompson, Kenneth Martin Thompson, Jr., Leland Craig Henry, Samuel Robert Henry, John Wallace Kinloch II, Camille Loiette Kinloch, William Wallace Kinloch, Douglas Cornelius Hume Henry, Jr., and William Sinclair Middleton Henry; and

WHEREAS, Senator Douglas Henry is also the proud great-grandfather of four treasured great-grandchildren, Clata Olympe McMahon, Lauren Craig Blount, Talena Grace McBride, and Marley Bliss McBride; and

WHEREAS, truly the end of an era in the history of the General Assembly, Senator Henry's prolific tenure on Capitol Hill will never be equaled, and his retirement from the General Assembly will create a void that will not be easily filled; his considerable talents and presence will be sorely missed by the membership of this body, the legislative staff, and the good people of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly is deeply saddened to bid farewell to our friend and colleague, the gentleman, the statesman, the legend, Senator Douglas S. Henry; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor Senator Douglas S. Henry on his distinguished service as a member of the General Assembly and thank him for his many valuable contributions to the good people of Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation as a token of our esteem, with this final clause omitted from such copy.